

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05086 271549Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-08
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 5086

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CJ, ECON
SUBJECT: CAYMAN ISLANDS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: KINGSTON 5085 (NOTAL)

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF ON JUNE 16,
GOVERNOR RUSSELL OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS ASKED FOR U.S.
NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE ASSISTANCE FOR THE ISLANDS IN
CONNECTION WITH A LOCALLY SPONSORED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EFFORT. ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR RUSSELL, A LOCAL
ENTREPRENEUR, SIR ANTHONY JENKINSON, HAS FORMED A COMPANY,
THE NORTH SOUND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, TO MAKE NORTH
SOUND ON GRAND CAYMAN A TRANSHIPMENT AND STORAGE POINT FOR
MINERALS AND GOODS TO AND FROM THE U.S., EUROPE
AND THE FAR EAST. THIS WOULD REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION OF A
SMALL CANAL AND DREDGING AMONG OTHER THINGS.

2. BEFORE WORK CAN GO AHEAD A MORE DETAILED HYDRO-
GRAPHIC SURVEY WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE OF CURRENTS AND
OTHER HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES OF GRAND CAYMAN.
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ADDED DIVIDENDS FROM SUCH A SURVEY WOULD ASSIST IN
NAVIGATION SAFETY AND IN DEALING WITH OIL SPILLS
(WHICH COULD BE A GREATER POSSIBILITY IF THE OIL
TRANSHIPMENT SCHEME FOR LITTLE CAYMAN IS REALIZED)
WHICH COULD THREATEN THE ISLAND'S TOURIST INDUSTRY
VITAL TO ITS ECONOMY. JENKINSON, ACCORDING TO THE
GOVERNOR, ALSO SAYS HIS SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE A VIABLE

ALTERNATIVE TO GUANTANIMO FOR THE U.S.

3. SINCE THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY DOES NOT HAVE AVAILABLE THE MEANS TO HELP THE CAYMANIANS WITH THE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY, THE GOVERNOR ASKED IF THE U.S. HRSAP COULD HELP. THE EMBOFF PROMISED TO CONVEY THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON AND REPLY ASAP.

4. WE BELIEVE IT IS WORTHWHILE TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST AND COMPARE IT WITH OTHER DEMANDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY RESOURCES TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. OF COURSE, THERE MAY BE A POSSIBILITY THAT SUDDEN U.S. INTEREST OF THIS KIND IN THE CAYMANS COULD SPUR CUBA TO TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN THE ISLANDS. WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN SHOULD ALSO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF THE OF THE REQUEST AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ANSWER TO THE GOVERNOR.

IRVING

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Message Attributes

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